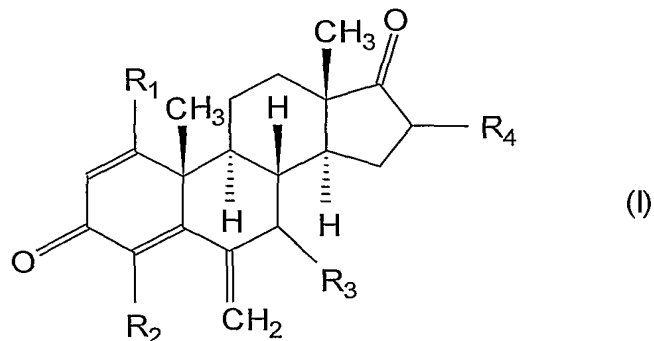


CLAIMS

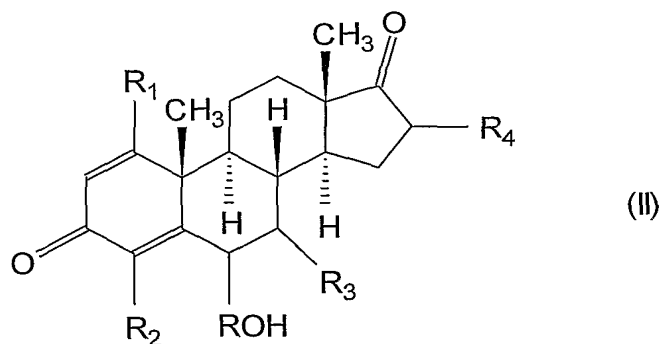
What is claimed is:

1. A method for preparing a compound of formula (I)

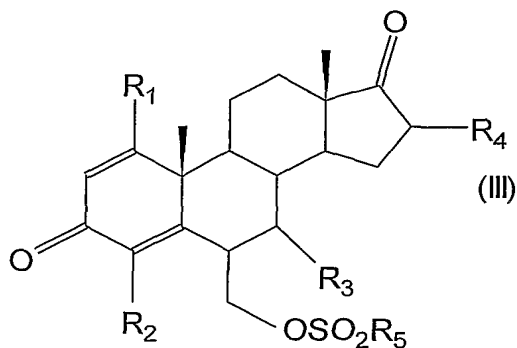


wherein each of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , independently, is hydrogen, halogen or C_1 - C_6 alkyl, the method comprising:

- reacting a compound of formula (II)



wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 are as defined above and R is alkylene, with a deprotonating agent and a compound of the formula R_5SO_2X wherein R_5 is C_1 - C_5 alkyl and X is halogen so as to obtain a compound of formula (III)

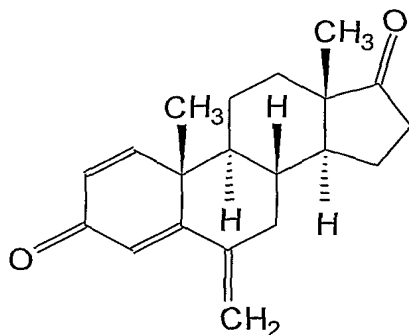


wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅ are as defined above; and
 reacting the compound of formula (III) with a base.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein:
 wherein each of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ is hydrogen.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein:
 R is methylene.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein:
 the deprotonating agent is an amine.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein:
 the deprotonating agent is a tertiary amine.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein:
 the deprotonating agent is a trialkyl amine.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein:
 R₅ is methyl.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein:
 R₅ is methyl and X is chlorine.

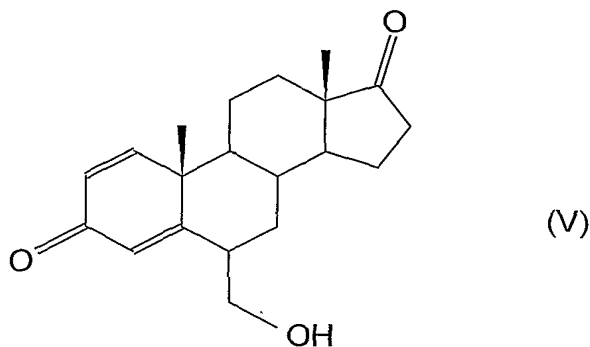
9. The method of claim 1 wherein:
wherein each of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 is hydrogen,
 R is methylene,
the deprotonating agent is a trialkyl amine,
 R_5 is methyl, and
 X is chlorine.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein:
the base is an alkali metal hydroxide.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein:
the base is potassium hydroxide.
12. The method of claim 1 wherein:
the compound of formula (III) is reacted with the base in a solvent.
13. The method of claim 1 wherein:
the solvent is an alkanol.

14. A method for preparing a compound of formula

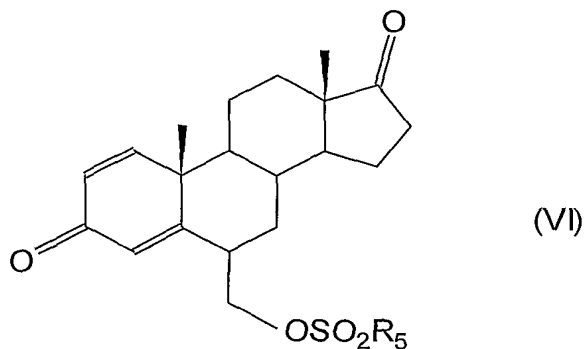


the method comprising:

reacting a compound of formula (V)



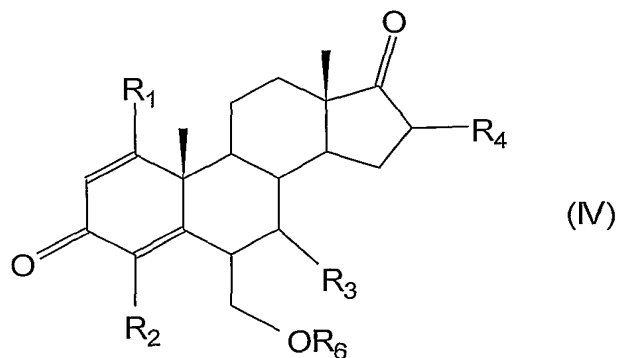
with a deprotonating agent and a compound of the formula R_5SO_2X wherein R_5 is C_1 - C_5 alkyl and X is halogen so as to obtain a compound of formula (VI)



and then reacting the compound of formula (VI) with a base in a solvent.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein:
R₅ is methyl and X is chlorine.
16. The method of claim 15 wherein:
the base is an alkali metal hydroxide, and
the solvent is an alkanol.

17. A compound of the formula (IV):



wherein each of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , independently, is hydrogen, halogen or C_1 - C_6 alkyl, and R_6 is a substituent other than hydrogen.

18. The compound of claim 17 wherein each of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 is hydrogen.
19. The compound of claim 17 wherein R_6 is methyl.
20. The compound of claim 17 wherein each of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 is hydrogen, and R_6 is SO_2R_5 wherein R_5 is C_1 - C_5 alkyl.
21. The compound of claim 19 wherein R_5 is methyl.